

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancel)
2. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim-4, wherein the rotary conveyor comprises a pocketed drum.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim-3, including for wrapping articles, particularly articles consisting of or containing groups of rod-like articles, comprising a rotary conveyor provided with a series of locations each of which is arranged to receive at a first rotational position of the conveyor an article and a wrapper at least partly surrounding the article and having at least one overlapped region, and heat sealing means carried with the conveyor and arranged to heat seal said overlapped region before discharge of the article and wrapper at a second rotational position of the conveyor, wherein the heat sealing means comprises a series of first and second opposed heater means associated with each location for heat sealing overlapped regions on opposite sides of an article at said location.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 3,4, including means for moving said respective heater means into and out of operative positions at said locations.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 5, including for wrapping articles, particularly articles consisting of or containing groups of rod-like articles, comprising a rotary conveyor provided with a series of locations each of which is arranged to receive at a first rotational position of the conveyor an article and a wrapper at least partly surrounding the article and having at least one overlapped region, and heat sealing means carried with the conveyor and arranged to heat seal said overlapped region before discharge of the article and wrapper at a second rotational position of the conveyor.~~

wherein the heat sealing means comprises a series of heater means, at least one heater means being associated with each of said locations.

and wherein at least one said series of heater means is mounted on a carrier, said moving means comprising means for displacing said carrier being rotatably displaceable about the axis of the rotary conveyor relative to said locations.

7. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said displacing means comprises means for rotationally displacing said carrier relative to an axis of said rotary conveyor.

8. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said carrier is annular and supports said heater means in radially outer or radially inner positions relative to said locations.

9. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said carrier supports a series of first heater means in a radially outer position, including a further annular carrier supporting a series of second heater means in a radially inner position.

10. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said carrier supports said heater means in axially adjacent positions relative to said locations.

11. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said carrier supports a series of first heater means in an axially adjacent position on one side of said locations, including a further carrier supporting a series of second heater means in an axially adjacent position on the other side of said locations.

12. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said locations are disposed so as to present respective faces of articles at ~~inclined-orientations~~ inclined with respect to radial directions of said rotary conveyor, and said heater means are provided with correspondingly inclined faces, so as to facilitate displacement of said heater means relative to said articles by said moving means.

13. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~4~~ 4, wherein the heat sealing means comprises a series of end seal heaters, each of which includes an actuable element movable into and out of an operative position with a respective location.

14. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the actuable element is arranged to complete a folding action on a wrapper of an article in said respective location on movement into said operative position.

15. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the actuable element includes a pivoted lever operated by cam means on rotation of said rotary conveyor.

16. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the actuable element is movable in a plane which is transverse to an axis of the rotary conveyor.

17. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the actuable element is movable in a plane which is generally parallel to an axis of the rotary conveyor.

18. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim-4 4, including means for delivering successive articles to said rotary conveyor at said first rotational position in a direction substantially parallel to an axis of said rotary conveyor.

19. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim-4 4, including means for delivering successive articles to said rotary conveyor at said first rotational position in a direction substantially transverse to an axis of said rotary conveyor.

20. (previously presented) Apparatus as claimed in claim 18, including means for transferring wrapped articles from said rotary conveyor towards further rotary

conveyor means in a direction parallel to the direction of conveyance of said delivering means.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (canceled)

27. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the rotary conveyor comprises a pocketed drum.

28. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said locations are disposed so as to present respective faces of articles at orientations inclined to radial directions of said rotary conveyor, and said heater means are provided with correspondingly inclined faces, so as to facilitate displacement of said heater means relative to said articles by said moving means.

29. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the heat sealing means comprises a series of end seal heaters, each of which includes an actuatable element moveable into and out of an operative position with a respective location.

30. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the actuatable element is arranged to complete a folding action on a wrapper of an article in said respective location on movement into said operative position.

31. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein the actuatable element includes a pivoted lever operated by cam means on rotation of said rotary conveyor.

32. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the actuatable element is movable in a plane which is transverse to an axis of the rotary conveyor.

33. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the actuatable element is movable in a plane which is generally parallel to an axis of the rotary conveyor.

34. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, including means for delivering successive articles to said rotary conveyor at said first rotational position in a direction substantially parallel to an axis of said rotary conveyor.

35. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, including means for delivering successive articles to said rotary conveyor at said first rotational position in a direction substantially transverse to an axis of rotary conveyor.

36. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 35, including means for transferring wrapped articles from said rotary conveyor towards further rotary conveyor means in a direction parallel to the direction of conveyance of said delivering means.

37. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 34, including means for transferring wrapped articles from said rotary conveyor towards further rotary conveyor means in a direction parallel to the direction of conveyance of said delivering means.